

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A floating window, suitable for use in a flatbed scanner, wherein the flatbed scanner comprises at least a top lid comprising an opening therein and an optical scan module, and the optical scan module periodically shifts under the opening, the floating window comprising:

a transparent flat panel, disposed under the opening and comprising a top surface and an opposing bottom surface;

a supporting member, located on a surface of the top lid, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface which is in contact with a periphery of the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel;

a limiting member, located on the surface of the top lid, the limiting member comprising a limiting surface disposed on a periphery of the top surface of the transparent flat panel; and

a flexible member, disposed between the top surface and the limiting surface, wherein when the optical scan module pushes the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel upward, the flexible member presses the top surface of the transparent flat panel downward accordingly.

2. (Original) The floating window according to claim 1, wherein the optical scan module comprises a pushing device disposed on top of the optical scan module, such that the optical scan module pushes the transparent flat panel upward via the pushing device.

3. (Original) The floating window according to claim 2, wherein the pushing device slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

4. (Previously presented) The floating window according to claim 2, wherein the pushing device rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

5. (Previously presented) The floating window according to claim 2, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening, and a moving area of the pushing device includes a part of the region beyond the opening.

6. (Original) The floating window according to claim 1, wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the surface of the top lid.

7. (Original) The floating window according to claim 1, wherein the limiting member is integrally formed with the surface of the top lid.

8. (Previously presented) A floating window, applicable to a flatbed scanner which comprises at least a top lid and an optical scan module, wherein the top lid comprises an opening therein, and the optical scan module periodically moves under the opening, the floating window comprising:

a transparent flat panel, located under the opening and comprising a top surface and an opposing bottom surface;

a flexible member, located between a periphery of the top surface of the transparent flat panel and a bottom wall surrounding the opening of the top lid,

wherein the optical scan module pushes the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel upward.

9. (Original) The floating window according to claim 8, wherein the optical scan module comprises a pushing device disposed on top of the optical scan module, such that the optical scan module pushes the transparent flat panel upward via the pushing device.

10. (Original) The floating window according to claim 9, wherein the pushing device slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

11. (Original) The floating window according to claim 9, wherein the pushing device rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

12. (Previously presented) The floating window according to claim 9, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening, and a moving area of the pushing device includes a part of the region beyond the opening.

13. (Previously presented) A floating window, suitable for use in a flatbed scanner, wherein the flatbed scanner comprises at least a top lid comprising an opening therein and an

optical scan module, and the optical scan module periodically shifts under the opening, the floating window comprising:

a transparent flat panel, disposed under the opening and comprising a top surface and an opposing bottom surface;

a supporting member, located on a surface of the top lid, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface which is in contact with a periphery of the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel; and

a limiting member, located on the surface of the top lid, the limiting member comprising a limiting surface disposed on a periphery of the top surface of the transparent flat panel,

wherein a distance between the supporting surface and the limiting surface is slightly larger than a thickness of the transparent flat panel to allow the transparent flat panel to move vertically, and the optical scan module is allowed to push the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel upward.

14. (Original) The floating window according to claim 13, wherein the optical scan module comprises a pushing device disposed on top of the optical scan module, such that the optical scan module pushes the transparent flat panel upward via the pushing device.

15. (Original) The floating window according to claim 14, wherein the pushing device slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

16. (Original) The floating window according to claim 14, wherein the pushing device rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

17. (Previously presented) The floating window according to claim 14, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening, and a moving area of the pushing device includes a part of the region beyond the opening.

18. (Original) The floating window according to claim 13, wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the surface of the top lid.

19. (Original) The floating window according to claim 13, wherein the limiting member is integrally formed with the surface of the top lid.

20. (Currently amended) A flatbed scanner, comprising:
a transparent flat panel comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;
a top lid comprising an opening, a supporting member and a limiting member, the opening being disposed adjacent to the top surface of the transparent flat panel, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface disposed adjacent to the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel, and the limiting member being disposed adjacent to a peripheral portion of the top surface of the transparent flat panel;
an optical scan module capable of being selectably shifted under the transparent flat panel and capable of pushing the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel toward the top lid as the optical scan module shifts; and
a flexible member capable of pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~patent~~ panel away from the top lid, the flexible member being disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the limiting surface of the limiting member.

21. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 20, wherein the optical scan module further comprises a pushing device capable of pushing the transparent flat panel toward the top lid.

22. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner window according to claim 21, wherein the pushing device comprises a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

23. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 21, wherein the pushing device comprises a pushing drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

24. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 21, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening of the top lid, and wherein a moving area of the pushing device includes a part of the region of the transparent flat panel beyond the opening.

25. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 20, wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

26. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 20, wherein the limiting member integrally formed with the top lid.

27. (Currently amended) A flatbed scanner, comprising:
a transparent flat panel comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;
a top lid comprising an opening, the opening being disposed adjacent to the top surface of the transparent flat panel;
an optical scan module capable of being selectably shifted under the transparent flat panel and capable of pushing the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel toward the top lid as the optical scan module shifts: and
a flexible member capable of pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~patent~~ panel away from the top lid, the flexible member being disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the top lid.

28. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 27, wherein the optical scan module further comprises a pushing device capable of pushing the transparent flat panel toward the top lid.

29. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 28, wherein the pushing device comprises a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

30. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 28, wherein the pushing device comprises a rolling drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

31. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 28, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening of the top lid, and
wherein a moving area of the pushing device includes a part of the region of the transparent flat panel beyond the opening.

32. (Previously presented) A flatbed scanner, comprising

a transparent flat panel comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;

a top lid comprising an opening, a supporting member and a limiting member, the opening being disposed adjacent to the top surface of the transparent flat panel, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface disposed adjacent to the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel, and the limiting member being disposed adjacent to a peripheral portion of the top surface of the transparent flat panel, a distance between the supporting surface of the supporting member and the limiting member allowing the transparent flat panel to move toward the top lid; and

an optical scan module capable of being selectably shifted under the transparent flat panel and capable of pushing the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel toward the top lid as the optical scan module shifts

33. (Currently amended) The flatbed scanner according to claim 32, further comprising a flexible member capable of pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~panel~~ panel away from the top lid, the flexible member being disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the limiting surface of the limiting member.

34. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 32, wherein the optical scan module further comprises a pushing device capable of pushing the transparent flat panel toward the top lid.

35. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 34, wherein the pushing device comprises a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

36. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 34, wherein the pushing device comprises a rolling drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

37. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 34, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening of the top lid, and

wherein a moving area of the pushing device includes a part of the region of the transparent flat panel beyond the opening.

38. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 32, wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

39. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 32, wherein the limiting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

40. (Currently amended) A flatbed scanner, comprising:
a transparent flat panel comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;
a top lid comprising an opening, a supporting member and a limiting member, the opening being disposed adjacent to the top surface of the transparent flat panel, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface disposed adjacent to the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel, and the limiting member being disposed adjacent to a peripheral portion of the top surface of the transparent flat panel;

optical scan means for being selectably shifted under the transparent flat panel and for pushing the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel toward the top lid as the optical scan module shifts; and

a flexible member means for pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~patent~~ panel away from the top lid, the flexible member means being disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the limiting surface of the limiting member.

41. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 40, wherein the optical scan means further comprises a pushing means for pushing the transparent flat panel toward the top lid.

42. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner window according to claim 41, wherein the pushing means comprises a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

43. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 41, wherein the pushing means comprises a rolling drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

44. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 41, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening of the top lid, and wherein a moving area of the pushing means includes a part of the region of the transparent flat panel beyond the opening.

45. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 40, wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

46. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 40, wherein the limiting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

47. (Currently amended) A flatbed scanner, comprising:
a transparent flat panel comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;
a top lid comprising an opening, the opening being disposed adjacent to the top surface of the transparent flat panel;
optical scan means for being selectably shifted under the transparent flat panel and for pushing the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel toward the top lid as the optical scan module shifts; and
a flexible member means for pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~patent~~ panel away from the top lid, the flexible member means being disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the top lid.

48. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 47, wherein the optical scan means further comprises a pushing means for pushing the transparent flat panel toward the top lid.

49. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 48, wherein the pushing means comprises a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

50. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 48, wherein the pushing means comprises a rolling drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

51. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 48, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening of the top lid, and wherein a moving area of the pushing means includes a part of the region of the transparent flat panel beyond the opening.

52. (Previously presented) A flatbed scanner, comprising
a transparent flat panel comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;
a top lid comprising an opening, a supporting member and a limiting member, the opening being disposed adjacent to the top surface of the transparent flat panel, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface disposed adjacent to the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel, and the limiting member being disposed adjacent to a peripheral portion of the top surface of the transparent flat panel, a distance between the supporting surface of the supporting member and the limiting member allowing the transparent flat panel to move toward the top lid; and
optical scan means for being selectably shifted under the transparent flat panel and for pushing the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel toward the top lid as the optical scan module shifts

53. (Currently amended) The flatbed scanner according to claim 52, further comprising a flexible member means for pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~patent~~ panel away from the top lid, the flexible member means being disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the limiting surface of the limiting member.

54. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 52, wherein the optical scan means further comprises a pushing means capable of pushing the transparent flat panel toward the top lid.

55. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 54, wherein the pushing means comprises a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

56. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 54, wherein the pushing means comprises a rolling drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

57. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 54, wherein the transparent flat panel extends to a region beyond the opening of the top lid, and wherein a moving area of the pushing means includes a part of the region of the transparent flat panel beyond the opening.

58. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 52, wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

59. (Previously presented) The flatbed scanner according to claim 52, wherein the limiting member is integrally formed with the top lid.

60. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
pressing a bottom of a transparent flat panel of a flatbed scanner so that it moves toward a top lid of the flatbed scanner by an optical scan module that shifts under the transparent flat panel, the top lid comprising an opening, a supporting member and a limiting member. the opening being disposed adjacent to a top surface of the transparent flat panel, the supporting member comprising a supporting surface disposed adjacent to the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel, and the limiting member being disposed adjacent to a peripheral portion of the top surface of the transparent flat panel; and
pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~patent~~ panel away from the top lid.

61. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein pressing the bottom surface comprises pressing the bottom surface toward the top lid by a pushing device of the optical scan module.

62. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein pressing the bottom surface comprises pressing the bottom surface toward the top lid by a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein pressing the bottom surface comprises pressing the bottom surface toward the top lid by a pushing drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

64. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein pressing the top surface comprises pressing the top surface away from the top lid by a flexible member disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the top lid.

65. (Previously presented) A ~~flatbed scanner~~, method comprising:
pressing a bottom of a transparent flat panel of a flatbed scanner so that it moves toward a top lid of the flatbed scanner by an optical scan module that shifts under the transparent flat panel, the top lid comprising an opening, the opening being disposed adjacent to a top surface of the transparent flat panel; and
pressing the top surface of the transparent flat ~~panel~~ away from the top lid.

66. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 65, wherein pressing the bottom surface comprises pressing the bottom surface toward the top lid by a pushing device of the optical scan module.

67. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 65, wherein pressing the bottom surface comprises pressing the bottom surface toward the top lid by a cam that slides under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

68. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 65, wherein pressing the bottom surface comprises pressing the bottom surface toward the top lid by a pushing drum that rolls horizontally under the bottom surface of the transparent flat panel.

69. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 65, wherein pressing the top surface comprises pressing the top surface away from the top lid by a flexible member disposed between the top surface of the transparent flat panel and the top lid.